

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SMALL BUSINESS
LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION
ON RURAL RESOURCES

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



SENATOR
PAMELA A. HELMING
54TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
AGRICULTURE
HOUSING, CONSTRUCTION AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
RACING, GAMING AND WAGERING

May 20, 2020

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, New York State
NYS Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Across New York, small businesses are struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While several pieces of legislation designed to provide relief to these businesses have been introduced including S.8249, we have no clear indication from the Senate or Assembly Majorities as to when the Legislature will resume session to act on these bills. Therefore, we are requesting your immediate assistance on behalf of our small business owners.

During a recent legislative hearing, numerous business owners and organizations requested assistance to hold the line on unemployment insurance ratings and expenses. Specifically, we must exclude payments made for unemployment insurance benefits from the calculation of the employer's contribution for their experience rating if the employer's business has closed for reasons related to COVID-19 or as a result of a mandatory order by the state to close.

Typically, layoffs by an employer result in higher unemployment insurance rates. Many layoffs that small business employers recently made were a result of COVID-19 and at no fault of their own. As the State reopens, many of these businesses plan to also reopen or return to full operating capacity and hire back their employees. As such, they should have these unemployment calculations excluded in their rating for the following year.

Our small businesses are the lifeblood of so many communities around the state. Now is the time to offer them any assistance we can and do everything in our power to help them restart so we may restart our economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We are hopeful that we can work together on this important issue on behalf of New York's small businesses.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Pamela A. Helming in cursive script.

Pamela A. Helming
Senator, 54th District

Handwritten signature of George M. Borrello in cursive script.

George Borrello
Senator, 57th District

Handwritten signature of Rich Funke in cursive script.

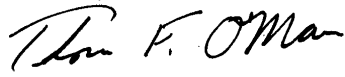
Rich Funke
Senator, 55th District



Patrick Gallivan
Senator, 59th District



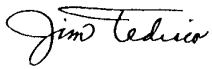
Daphne Jordan
Senator, 43rd District



Thomas O'Mara
Senator, 58th District



Michael Ranzenhofer
Senator, 61st District



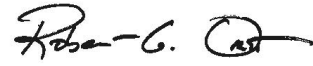
James Tedisco
Senator, 49th District



Chris Jacobs
Senator, 60th District



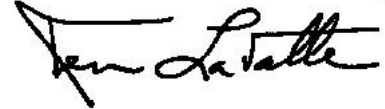
Andrew Lanza
Senator, 24th District



Robert Ort
Senator, 62nd District



Sue Serino
Senator, 41st District



Kenneth LaValle
Senator, 1st District